

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Sub 1) Claims 1-49 (Cancelled)

✓ 50. (Newly added): Structure providing access to an area beneath a floor, said structure comprising:

a segment of a floor having an upper surface and an opening therethrough;

a floor covering on said upper surface of said floor segment;

an access panel providing access to said area through said opening, said access panel including a floor frame located in the opening and a lid supported on the frame, said frame including a support flange extending therearound, said support flange being disposed so as to extend outwardly from the frame between the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor segment.

✓ 51. (Newly added): Structure as set forth in claim 50, wherein the flange includes a ramped edge.

✓ 52. (Newly added): Structure set forth in claim 50, wherein the flange comprises two abutting parts formed from respective different materials.

✓ 53. (Newly added): A rigid structural frame for an access panel providing access through a floor segment, said frame including a tapered, outwardly extending flange having a thickness which tapers substantially uniformly over a distance of at least 10 times the maximum thickness of the flange.

✓ 54. (Newly added): Structure for an access panel comprising a rigid structural frame having an outer edge and a tapered flange formed from a soft non structural material disposed in abutting relationship to said outer edge.

✓ 55. (Newly added): Structure as set forth in claim 54, wherein the flange is formed from a flexible polymeric material and the same is attached to and disposed in overlying relationship to the outer edge.

✓ 56. (Newly added): A frame as set forth in claim 55, wherein the flange is separate from the outer edge and presents a step portion arranged to mate with a corresponding recess on said outer edge.

✓ 57. (Newly added): A frame as set forth in claim 53, including a central, lid closable aperture and an upstanding rib which extends around said central aperture, said rib being disposed between a peripheral edge of the flange and the central aperture and being arranged and located such that the same does not project above a level down to which a floor covering on the floor around the frame would crush under normal usage loads.

✓ 58. (Newly added): A floor structure including a floor segment, a frame as set forth in claim 53 supported by the floor segment, and a lid for closing an aperture in said frame, the materials and construction of the frame and lid being such that the load bearing capacities thereof are not substantially less than that of the floor segment.

✓ 59. (Newly added): A frame as set forth in claim 57 wherein the lid comprises a rigid structural panel having a flexible overmoulding.

✓ 60. (Newly added): A frame as set forth in claim 53, wherein the frame is rectangular and is arranged and configured to define a pivot surface that extends parallel to and is spaced inwardly from an inner edge of the frame which abuts the floor segment and defines an aperture therein.

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61. (Newly added): A frame as set forth in claim 60, wherein the lid has an underside that defines a bearing surface which is adapted to slidably engage on the pivot surface to allow the lid to bear on and pivot about the pivot surface.

62. (Newly added): A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access through a barrier, said outlet being adapted to be seated adjacent a surface of the barrier and in communication with an opening therethrough, said lid including a latch releasably securing the lid in a closed condition relative to the outlet and a hatch that is pivotally connected to a panel of the lid for movement between an open position providing an aperture in the lid through which cable services may extend and a closed position where no such aperture is provided, the arrangement of said latch, hatch and lid panel being such that when the lid is latched and the hatch is open, neither the lid nor the hatch can be raised from a predetermined position by movement of cable.

63. (Newly added): A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access for cable services through a barrier, said outlet being adapted to be seated adjacent a surface of the barrier and in communication with a hole therethrough, said lid comprising a panel formed from a rigid structural material and an overmoulding formed from a flexible polymeric material, said overmoulding defining at least one openable hatch.

64. (Newly added): A lid as set forth in claim 63 wherein is included an integral hinge joining the lid and the hatch together.

65. (Newly added): An access panel comprising a frame for insertion into an opening in a barrier, said frame defining an aperture and including an upstanding rib which extends around the aperture, said rib having a chamfered edge, said access panel including a lid for the aperture having a chamfered edge formed from a flexible material, the arrangement of

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said chamfered edges being such that a substantially waterproof sealing fit is provided between the lid and the upstanding rib.

✓ 66. (Newly added): An access panel for insertion into an opening in a barrier, said access panel including a floor frame defining a square or rectangular aperture, said frame further including structure defining a closed channel extending continuously along the four sides of the aperture.

✓ 67. (Newly added): An access panel for providing access through a barrier, said panel comprising:

a frame;

a lid configured and arranged for closing the frame, said lid including a hatch that is pivotally connected thereto for movement between an open position providing an aperture in the lid and a closed position where no aperture is provided; and

two or more latch supporting pillars having curved inner faces configured and arranged to support the hatch in its open position and thereby define an expanding trumpet-shaped aperture.

¶ 68. (Newly added): An access panel as set forth in claim 67, wherein the sides of the lid are tapered inwardly to facilitate closure of the frame by the lid and sweeping aside of any carpet positioned adjacent the frame to avoid trapping of carpet when the frame is closed by the lid.

¶ 69. (Newly added): An access panel as set forth in claim 68, wherein the tapered sides of the lid are sloped at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees.

70. (Newly added): Structure as set forth in claim 54, 55 or 56, wherein the frame includes a central, lid closable aperture and an upstanding rib which extends around said

central aperture, said rib being disposed between a peripheral edge of the flange and the central aperture and being arranged and located such that the same does not project above a level down to which the pile of a carpet on the floor around the frame would crush under normal usage loads.

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71. (Newly added): A floor structure including a floor segment, structure as set forth in claim 54, 55 or 56 wherein the frame is supported by the floor segment, and a lid for closing an aperture in said frame, wherein the materials and construction of the frame and lid are such that the load bearing capacities thereof are not substantially less than that of the floor segment.

72. (Newly added): A floor structure including a floor segment and structure as set forth in claim 54, 55 or 56, wherein said frame is supported by the floor segment, is rectangular and is arranged and configured to define a pivot surface that extends parallel to and is spaced inwardly from an inner edge of the frame, which inner edge abuts the floor segment and defines an aperture therein.

73. (Newly added): A lid as set forth in claim 62, 63 or 64, wherein the barrier is a floor, a wall or a desktop.

74. (Newly added): An access panel as set forth in claim 65, 66 or 67, wherein the barrier is a floor, a wall or a desktop.